



PRESS RELEASE

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Car Park Plans for the Hippodrome are a U-turn

Approval of plans to construct a multi-storey car park on the site of the Hippodrome would contradict the council's own advice. The planning officer's report into a successful 2006 application for change of use from a bingo hall to a theatre stated that visitor parking would be absorbed within the existing city centre car parks^[1].

The Derby Hippodrome Restoration Fund believes the council should follow its previous advice and reject the current planning application. Joan Travis, chair of the Fund, says: "Since 2006 the opening of the Westfield car park has provided 3,000 extra car parking spaces. There is an abundance of under-used existing car parking capacity in the vicinity of the Hippodrome and there is no need for more."

The proposed multi-storey car park, which would replace the theatre, would take in the existing Crompton Street car park which has come in for criticism recently after visitors were clamped and ordered to pay £125 to be released.

The chair of the Fund states: "We do not need another car park. We need a large theatre, whose patrons would help to fill the existing car parks. A restored theatre would do far more to regenerate the area than would another car park."

Mrs Travis is delighted that the news of the Fund's foundation has produced a strong positive reaction from both the media and the public: "The restoration of this lovely theatre would give people the chance to experience so much wonderful theatre as they do in our neighbouring cities. We urge those who support its restoration to write to their councillors. We voters have a voice and should use it."

For further information on the Hippodrome see: www.derbyhippodrome.co.uk

Email us at: action@derbyhippodrome.co.uk

Write to us at: *Derby Hippodrome Restoration Fund, PO Box 7824, Derby, DE1 0TQ.*

Ends

Notes to editors

1. See http://eplanning.derby.gov.uk/acolnet/DocumentsOnline/documents/13184_6.pdf